

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 11 and 20. The status of the claims is as follows:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising:

a plurality of grooves formed on a tread portion; and

a plurality of blocks divided by the grooves, wherein

a ratio of a block facing length c to a width b of the ~~groove~~ grooves c/b is in a range of  $0.50 \leq c/b \leq 1.30$ , ~~where~~ wherein the block facing length c is ~~a length of a shorter line segment~~ obtained by selecting a pair of blocks adjacent to each other across a groove from a plan view of the tread portion, drawing perpendicular lines from two vertices of one block on a side of a sandwiched groove to other block across the sandwiched groove, respectively, connecting ends of the perpendicular lines on the one block by a first line segment along an outer circumference of the one block, connecting ends of the perpendicular lines on the other block by a second line segment along an outer circumference of the other block, and comparing a length of the line segment between the blocks lengths of the first and second line segments, the block facing length c being shorter one of the first and second line segments.

12. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein  
the ratio of the block facing length  $c$  to the width  $b$  of the groove  $c/b$  is in a range of  $1.00 \leq c/b \leq 1.30$ .

13. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein  
a ratio of the block facing length  $c$  to a depth  $a$  of the groove  $c/a$  is in a range of  $0.40 \leq c/a \leq 0.85$ .

14. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 13, wherein  
the ratio of the block facing length  $c$  to the depth  $a$  of the groove  $c/a$  is in a range of  $0.60 \leq c/a \leq 0.80$ .

15. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, further comprising:  
at least three lines of a block array formed with a plurality of the blocks arranged in a tire circumferential direction.

16. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein the groove includes an inclined groove that is inclined with respect to a tire circumferential direction, and a substantially net-shaped tread pattern is formed on the tread portion.

17. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 16, wherein an angle of inclination of the inclined groove is in a range between 30 degrees and 60 degrees.

18. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein a ratio of a depth  $a$  and the width  $b$  of the groove  $b/a$  is in a range of  $0.6 \leq b/a \leq 0.8$ .

19. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein

a protrusion for suppressing a foreign-object drilling is formed in a bottom of the groove.

20. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising:

a plurality of grooves formed on a tread portion; and

a plurality of blocks divided by the grooves, wherein

a ratio of a block facing length  $c$  to a depth  $a$  of the ~~groove~~ grooves  $c/a$  is in a range of  $0.40 \leq c/a \leq 0.85$ , ~~where~~ wherein the block facing length  $c$  is a length of a shorter line segment obtained by selecting a pair of blocks adjacent to each other across a groove from a plan view of the tread portion, drawing perpendicular lines from two vertices of one block on a side of a sandwiched groove to other block across the sandwiched groove, ~~respectively,~~ connecting ends of the perpendicular lines on the one block by a first line segment along an outer circumference of the one block, connecting ends of the perpendicular lines on the other block by a second line segment along an outer circumference of the other block, and ~~comparing a length of the line segment between the blocks~~ lengths of the first and second line segments, the block facing length  $c$  being shorter one of the first and second line segments.

21. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim

20, wherein

the ratio of the block facing length  $c$  to the depth  $a$  of the groove  $c/a$  is in a range of  $0.60 \leq c/a \leq 0.80$ .

22. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 20, further comprising:

at least three lines of a block array formed with a plurality of the blocks arranged in a tire circumferential direction.

23. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 20, wherein

the groove includes an inclined groove that is inclined with respect to a tire circumferential direction, and

a substantially net-shaped tread pattern is formed on the tread portion.

24. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 23, wherein

an angle of inclination of the inclined groove is in a range between 30 degrees and 60 degrees.

25. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim

20, wherein

a ratio of the depth  $a$  and a width  $b$  of the groove  $b/a$  is in a range of

$0.6 \leq b/a \leq 0.8$ .

26. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim

20, wherein

a protrusion for suppressing a foreign-object drilling is formed in a bottom of

the groove.